

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

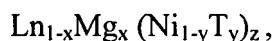
The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A nickel-hydrogen secondary battery comprising a positive electrode and a negative electrode opposite each other with a separator between, and contained in a container with an alkaline electrolyte;

wherein the positive electrode contains nickel hydroxide and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of  $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ ,  $\text{WO}_2$  and  $\text{WO}_3$ ; and

wherein the negative electrode contains a hydrogen-absorbing alloy having composition represented by a general formula



where Ln is at least one element selected from the group consisting of the lanthanoids, Ca, Sr, Sc, Y, Ti, Zr and Hf, T is at least one element selected from the group consisting of V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo, Mn, Fe, Co, Al, Ga, Zn, Sn, In, Cu, Si, P and B, and x, y and z are numerical values satisfying the requirements  $0 < x < 1$ ,  $0 \leq y \leq 0.5$ , and  $2.5 \leq z \leq 4.5$ , respectively.

12. (Previously Presented) The nickel-hydrogen secondary battery according to claim 11, wherein the surface of the nickel hydroxide is coated with a cobalt compound.

13. (Previously Presented) The nickel-hydrogen secondary battery according to claim 12, wherein the cobalt compound is a higher-order cobalt compound which has distorted crystal structure and contains alkali cations.

14. (Previously Presented) The nickel-hydrogen secondary battery according to claim 13, wherein the average valency of nickel contained in the nickel hydroxide is higher than 2.

15. (Previously Presented) The nickel-hydrogen secondary battery according to claim 14, wherein the average valency of nickel contained in the nickel hydroxide is in the range of 2.05 to 2.30.

16. (Previously Presented) The nickel-hydrogen secondary battery according to claim 15, wherein the average valency of nickel contained in the nickel hydroxide is in the range of 2.10 to 2.30.

17. (Previously Presented) The nickel-hydrogen secondary battery according to any one of claims 11 to 16, wherein the nickel hydroxide contains Co and Zn in a form of a solid solution.

18. (Previously Presented) The nickel-hydrogen secondary battery according to claim 17, wherein the hydrogen-absorbing alloy contains La, Nd, Pr, Co and Al.